

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE
July 11, 2016

Present: V. Dallas; D. Kessel; C. Parrish; L. Romano; B. Roth; N. Simon; W. Volz;
K. Whitfield; A. Wisniewski

Absent with notice: J. Artiss; L. Beale

Guest: President M. Roy Wilson

The item marked with an asterisk constitutes the Action of July 11.

1. Mathematics Competency: President Wilson met with the Policy Committee to discuss their concerns about the suspension of the math competency general education requirement. President Wilson wants the issues about the competency to be reviewed quickly and to involve faculty and the various committees and constituencies as required by the Statute governing the general education program. The Board of Governors will be involved in the resolution of this matter. After the competency was suspended, General Counsel Louis Lessem was asked to rule whether the Board should have been consulted. It is his opinion that, because the competency was suspended and not eliminated, approval by the Board was not necessary. President Wilson and the Board believe that the intention of the Statute was that the Board be involved.

The President responded to the Policy Committee's questions about the suspension. The members explained their concerns about the content of the math competency course and the way it was taught as well as about the level of math needed to pass the exam.

[President Wilson left the meeting.]

Provost Whitfield is setting up the committee to which President Wilson referred. He will send an official request to the Policy Committee to appoint faculty and academic staff to the committee.

2. Report from the Chair:
 - a. Enrollment Management: Dawn Medley has been appointed Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management effective July 18. The search for the Director of Financial Aid is ongoing. Provost Whitfield would like that position to be filled by September 1.
 - b. Administrative Appointments: Mr. Romano asked that, as was done in the past, the Policy Committee meet with candidates for high-level administrative positions. Policy Committee will meet with the finalists for the Director of Financial Aid.
 - c. Associate Vice President for Budgets and Planning: The search to fill this position has been suspended. Vice President for Finance and Business Operations William Decatur suspended the search after one of the finalists withdrew, leaving only one candidate. He did not think the search was viable with one candidate. He will modify the portfolio for the position and begin a new search.

3. Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee: Mr. Romano will serve on the Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee that is preparing for the 150th anniversary of the founding of Wayne State.
- *4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Policy Committee approved the Proceedings of its meeting of June 20, 2016, as submitted.
5. Retention and Graduation Rates: Mr. Romano wrote a report summarizing the Policy Committee's efforts and involvement from the early 2000s to the present to improve the University's retention and graduation rates. He distributed an article from the October 17, 2010, edition of the Chronicle of Higher Education titled "Wayne State's Black-White Graduation Gap Reflects Detroit's Struggles." Despite the resources that have been spent and the various programs that have been tried, the graduation rate for African American students has not improved. Mr. Romano reviewed the suggestions that the Policy Committee had made, the actions that were taken to address the problem, and the results. Policy Committee members also mentioned to Provost Whitfield other initiatives that might help students graduate.
6. Student Code of Conduct: Policy Committee had suggested revising the Student Code of Conduct to list as a violation students' using the product from one course for another course without the consent of the instructor of the second course. The Statute containing the Code of Conduct has to be revised. The next step is for Mr. Lessem to write the language for the Statute. Policy Committee will review the revision because it is an academic issue. The revision will be submitted to the Board of Governors for action.
7. Report on Daycare: Mr. Artiss chaired a 3N committee with representatives from the faculty, the Graduate Employees' Organizing Committee, and the administration to evaluate the need and availability of daycare for students, staff, and faculty. The committee submitted its report to Provost Whitfield. The next step is to form a working group to develop a proposal. The Provost discussed the issue with Vice President Decatur and he has asked for more information about existing daycare on campus and in the area. Policy Committee will revisit the issue.
8. FTIAC Parking Assessment Committee: Mr. Romano chairs this Committee that is charged with assessing whether class attendance and academic achievement for first-time-in-any-college students improves if they did not have to pay each time they enter a parking lot or structure. The students will be assigned to parking facilities that they will enter using their one card.
9. Graduate Programs: Mr. Volz mentioned that graduate programs also have problems retaining and graduating students. He thinks we should look at ways to improve the graduation rates and time to degree of graduate students. For many years, Wayne State's graduate enrollment was in the top ten in the country.